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Mandatory Review

Case # NLJ 95-408

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Office of Current Intelligence  
6 April 1964

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Report by Carlos Prio Socarras on Soviet  
Military Activity in Cuba

1. Former Cuban President (October 1948 - March 1952) Carlos Prio Socarras is known to be a politically oriented opportunist whose attitude toward the United States is largely conditioned by his ambition to return to a position of influence in Cuba.

1.5(c)  
3.4(b)(1)

2. An evaluation of the information provided in his 27 March letter to President Johnson follows (the paragraph numbers below parallel the relevant paragraphs in the letter):

2) The Soviets possess no operational missile system comparable to the 1,200 mile range GOLEM II underwater ballistic missile described by Prio. "GOLEM" is a World War II term frequently used in the European press or in popular fiction accounts of general missile activity, and is not the official designator for any known missile system.

3) Recent high altitude photography shows no suspect or other activity in the vicinity of Playa Fraile, which Prio states is the site where Soviet technicians have reportedly been working on the installation of the "GOLEM II."

4) The Santa Cruz del Norte launch site for 35-mile range coastal defense cruise

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missiles is located near the Hershey Sugar Mill, an area which Prio has referred to as a Russian strategic weapon complex containing 2,000-mile range missiles in underground silos smaller than the silos required for US Minuteman missiles. Missiles of a size small enough to fit into such silos would not have a 2,000 mile range.

5) Prio also reports the presence of a radar network in the mountains near Jaruco and Tapaste which is linked to the strategic missile complex mentioned above. Powerful electronic equipment for tracking US missile launchings at Cape Kennedy is also said to be located in the area. We have reliable information indicating that an ammunition storage and probable cruise missile support facility is located at Tapaste. Although no electronics/radar facility is known to be in the Tapaste hills, there are a number of communications and radar sites located within a 15 mile radius of Tapaste.

6) The presence in Cuba of Soviet astrophysicist Nikolai Yerpylev has been reported in the open press, and he is probably in charge of the Soviet photo-optical satellite tracking station in Cuba. Recent evidence indicates that the station may now be operational.

7/8) Another important Soviet strategic base is said by Prio to be located in the Bellamar caves near Matanzas. Newly built tunnels are said to lead from the caves to submarine pens in Matanzas bay. The Bellamar caves serve as an ammunition and small arms storage depot, and are not suitable for storage of large military equipment because of the steepness of the entrance.

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1.5(c)  
3.4(b)(1)

9) The information provided by Prio in paragraph nine generally conforms with known

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military activity in the areas cited, except for the reported concealment of strategic missiles in the quarries near Limonar. Limonar is the former Soviet headquarters for the western sector air defense forces and the location of a Cuban ground forces training installation.

3. We have examined the areas of suspect activity cited by Dr. Prio and find nothing which would substantiate his allegation that strategic missiles are based in Cuba. Most of the information contained in his letter of 27 March appears to be based on fabrication or upon exaggeration of previously identified military activity on the island.